



HI-Q

THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

VE3FW - LARC call sign - honours the memory of the Founding President - P. J. "Pat" O'Shea

LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske
Ray Forslund
Pat Doherty
Dave Kimpton
Bill Roberts

VE3JQ
VE3EDZ
VE3PD
VE3AVS
VE3ARN

LARC EXECUTIVE 2004-2005

President:	Bill Unger	VE3XT 344-1848
Vice-Pres:	Bob Hansen	VE3RVA 767-6924
Secretary:	Charlene Schiffer	VA3AAH 473-8420
Treasurer:	Ed Baumann	VE3SNW 622-1216
Directors:	Terry Stewardson	VA3LU 577-9439
	Mark Vaillant	VA3MVR 935-2205
	Brad Harris	VE3MXJ 767-0628
	Leo Wehrstedt	VE3ATC 939-1020
Editor:	Glen Wallace	VE3ICY 623-0135

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT MOUNT BALDY 147.060 (-600) FP
VE3TBR ST. JOSEPH'S 146.820 (-600) FP
442.075 (+5 MHz)
VE3BGA HILLCREST H.S. 145.450 (-600)
(IRLP NODE VA3LU 123.0 Hz)

The Prez Sez:

This month we will be having a guest speaker; Cheri will explain some of the intricacies of GIS. We will also have a tour of the new GIS lab at Confederation College.

It starts at 7:30, on Thursday November 11, in the regular room, 191. Hope you can make it as it should be interesting. If you have a friend who may have an interest in amateur radio this would be a good meeting to bring them to.

After the tour we will have a quick regular business meeting.

As most of you are aware we had some snow in the last few weeks, so I would start to think that now would be a great time to start thinking of modifying the antenna system. We all know that any antenna put up in a blizzard is guaranteed to work a lot more DX than one put up in July!

I have been listening on the bands for the last few weeks and conditions seem to be pretty favorable so if you can it would be a good time to fire up the HF rig and see who you can hear. I like to hang out on 40M and work the "locals"; I seem to find it easier to talk to some one in the upper mid west than a DX station. But each to their own. There is talk that the next solar cycle is starting up and with the winter fast approaching a new blizzard sky wire and with a little help from the propagation gods you should be able to work the world. Hope to see you on the air and at the meeting.

73

Bill VE3XT

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
held in Room 191 at Confederation College,
Thunder Bay, Ontario on October 14, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the President VE3XT, Bill Unger with 26 members in attendance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki as well as other members of the Club who had recently lost family members.

Guest Speaker: The President VE3XT Bill Unger gave numerous excuses for why there was no guest speaker for the meeting. As a result, we were stuck with Bill's presentation of a cute story about 3 girls that were arrested in Mexico.

Minutes of the last meeting held September 9, 2004:

Due to unseen circumstances, the minutes of the September 9th meeting will be published in the November edition of HI-Q.

Correspondence:

- letter of thanks from the Thunder Wolves 20 mile and relay race
- letter of thanks from the Northern Cancer Research Foundation
- letter from the O.P.P. regarding the 14th Annual Christmas Parade

Treasurer's Report: VE3SNW Ed Baumann

Balance as of September 1, 2004		2386.68
Expenses:	Telephone	44.31
	Bank Service Chg	1.00
	Room Rental	60.00
		105.31
Income	Dues	1165.00
	Club Pins	180.00
	Donations	225.00
	50/50 Draw	20.00
		1590.00
Balance as September 30, 2004		\$3,871.37

Motion: moved by VE3SNW Ed Baumann and seconded by VE3MXJ Brad Harris that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Carried.**

Club Insurance: VE3SNW Ed Baumann reported that we have received the invoice for the Club insurance. This year's premium is \$1059.48 which includes a rider for the communications trailer. VE3ZG Mike Nawrocki stated that the cost of the rider would be paid for from the

Communications Trailer fund.

Motion: moved by VE3BHN Bob Gillespie and seconded by VA3LEB Len Bougie that the premium for the insurance be paid. **Carried.**

LARC Membership: VE3XT Bill Unger reported that a large number of letters had been

sent out to local amateurs reminding them of renewing their Club memberships.

55+ Centre Radio Room: the Club Executive has recommended that the radio room at the 55+ Centre on River Street be closed except for a 2m rig and antenna which would be used as a backup emergency station. It was recommended that the equipment be sold and if required by the City, the towers would be removed by the LARC. It was felt that the chances of reactivating the station were slim.

Phone Patch: VE3INI Andy Malcolm reported that the link to Mount Baldy would have to be removed from it's present site and would require some "bench" time to get it working again.

Public Service: the Club has been asked to provide communications for the 14th Annual O.P.P. Christmas Parade on Saturday November 20, 2004.

Classes: VE3SNW Ed Baumann reported that the annual radio classes will start on the 3rd Thursday in January. VE3XT Bill Unger explained how he would like to see an Amateur Radio Expo set for the first night.

New Business:

VE3NHX Lindo Scalese mentioned that Superior Wireless may have some surplus 900 MHz equipment that might be of use to the LARC. This will be followed up.

At the November meeting, a tour of the GIS lab at the College is being arranged.

Adjournment: moved by VE3ZG Mike Nawrocki that the meeting be adjourned.

Minutes contributed by Norm Bell VE3XRC ...Thank You

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Meeting

Thursday, November 11, 2004

7:30 P.M.

Room 191, McIntyre Building,

SKYWARN TIMES

"A Monthly Newsletter from the U.P.'s newest Net"
October - 2004

WELCOME:

This is our initial newsletter to you and we hope you will join us on a regular basis each Friday night at 9 pm on the "315" repeater, for the FRIDAY NIGHT SKYWARN net. The start date will be Oct. 29, 2004

PERMISSION:

Permission has been granted by the KCRA (Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc. to run the net on this channel.

ADVANTAGES:

The advantage of holding the SKYWARN net here is that it is a wide coverage repeater, covering a five county area. (Yes, that's already been proven.)

TYPE OF NET:

It is open to all radio amateurs, and especially those amateurs who have already attended one or more of the annual sessions put on by the National Weather Service Office of Negaunee in the Spring of each year.

INTENTIONS:

Our goal is to provide information and training to radio hams on procedures to be used in reporting bad weather to the weather bureau. We've coordinated our efforts with Robin Turner, KC8TII the "Warning Coordinating Meteorologist" of the Marquette County group. I will be filing a monthly report with Robin, as to how things progress with our net.

AREA OF COVERAGE:

The five-county area that we will be covering is: Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga and Marquette.

NCS:

Net control (for the time being) will be myself, George, W8FWG.

BULLETINS:

At the end of the regular net, we will once again be providing bulletin transmissions, transcribed from ARRL Hq. In Newington. For this net we are going to abbreviate those bulletins, and have more local news presented.

OF LOCAL INTEREST: Today, Wednesday, October 20, 2004, the new Alltel communications tower went up at Osceola (Calumet). The old 133 foot tower that was there was taken down yesterday.

ACTUAL STORM:

In the case of an actual alert by the weather bureau in Negaunee, the role of NCS will be taken over by their own reporting station, **WX8MQT**, and all amateurs are asked to go to a monitoring mode, until specific stations are called upon by the bureau.

YOUR ROLE:

This is a fine opportunity for you to serve your individual county, by providing weather data to the NWS in Negaunee

Contributed by *Senator Dave Kimpton VE3AVS*

Plugging Into the Net, Through the Humble Wall Outlet *From Jim O'Brien VE3UA*

By TOM McNICHOL

New York Times - October 28, 2004

HIGH-speed Internet access usually comes to homes through one of two wires: a telephone line for D.S.L. subscribers, or a coaxial cable for cable modem users. But an emerging technology known as broadband over power lines, or B.P.L., may soon offer a third wire into homes, channeling high-speed data through a somewhat improbable conduit: an ordinary electrical outlet.

B.P.L. is the ultimate in plug-and-play. Users plug a small power line modem into any wall outlet and then connect the modem to a computer with a U.S.B. or Ethernet cable, or through a wireless Wi-Fi connection. The appeal of B.P.L. is that most of the wiring for the network is in place. Although data must be carefully routed over the electric grid to prevent interference and signal degradation, there is no need to dig up streets or rewire homes.

Two weeks ago the Federal Communications Commission adopted rule changes to encourage the technology in the hope of making broadband more widely available and fostering greater competition among high-speed Internet providers.

Internet service over power lines is probably a year or more away from becoming widely available, but the F.C.C.'s ruling is expected to spur investment in B.P.L. by utilities.

"Three or four years ago, the technology was not ready for prime time, but now we know it is," said Jay Birnbaum, vice president and general counsel for Current Communications of Germantown, Md., which makes B.P.L. equipment. "And we've gotten the cost down, so it's competitive with other broadband services."

The idea of using electric power lines to send data is not new; companies have been working on it for a decade. The major technical challenge has been how to send bursts of radio frequency energy over power lines without interfering with other radio signals, particularly ham radio and public safety frequencies.

The recent F.C.C. ruling establishes frequency bands that B.P.L. signals must avoid to protect aeronautical and Coast Guard communications, and sets up a publicly available database for resolving claims of harmful interference from private radio operators.

B.P.L. has been tested in small field trials for several years, involving about 5,000 customers in 18 states. Cinergy, a power company in the Midwest, recently began offering B.P.L. to homes in the Cincinnati area for \$30 to \$50 a month, depending on connection speed. The company says it hopes to have B.P.L. equipment in more than 50,000 homes by the end of the year.

Cinergy is also marketing B.P.L. to smaller municipal and cooperative power companies,

particularly in rural areas.

"We felt those municipal and cooperative power companies are a terrific market because many of those areas are underserved by D.S.L. and cable," said Bill Grealis, a Cinergy executive vice president.

Adding a data channel to the power lines also has potential benefits for the utilities themselves. By reserving a sliver of the B.P.L. data channel for themselves, power companies can use the network to identify problems and accomplish troubleshooting remotely, rather than sending out a crew.

Down the road, utilities could install Internet-enabled meters and switches to offer automated meter reading, power demand management and time-of-day pricing.

"Our main interest in B.P.L. is using it to better manage our utility," said Bob Dobkin, a spokesman for Pepco, which is based in Washington. Pepco has a pilot B.P.L. program in about 500 homes in Potomac, Md. "It enables you to identify problems without having to send someone out."

While B.P.L. holds promise, there are unanswered questions about the technology. One F.C.C. commissioner, Michael J. Copps, dissented in part with the commission's recent action, saying the agency had failed to address issues such as whether electricity customers pay higher monthly bills to subsidize their utility's foray into broadband.

"We're great on technology, but not so good on working out the rules of the road," Mr. Copps said. "Nearly all of the industrialized nations except the U.S. have national plans for broadband. We don't have any comprehensive strategy."

Mr. Copps and others note that the United States has lately become a broadband laggard; it ranks 13th in the world in broadband penetration, behind countries such as Japan, Korea, Denmark and Iceland. Many believe one main reason is cost. While Americans typically pay \$40 to \$50 monthly for a D.S.L. or cable modem connection, the Japanese, for example, pay \$10 to \$15 a month for even faster connections.

American broadband consumers, in short, get less bit for the buck.

Will B.P.L. bring down the cost of broadband?

Mr. Grealis of Cinergy will say only that the cost of a B.P.L. connection will be competitive with D.S.L., cable and wireless. It remains to be seen whether the third wire into the home turns out to be a cheaper alternative or more like the third gas station on a corner, battling the competition at remarkably similar prices.



*From the Golden Years of Radio a Thirty's S
Extinguisher)*

Glen Wallace VE3ICY

Glen Wallace VE3ICY